

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration

We, the Ministers responsible for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety having met in Kuala Lumpur on the occasion of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

Alarmed that biological diversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate as a result of human activities;

Recognising the objectives of the Convention pose enormous challenges to conventional approaches and that new solutions that recognize the interlinked nature of the issues and the three objectives of the Convention are needed to overcome many of these challenges;

Reconfirm our commitment to more effectively and coherently implement the three objectives of the Convention and achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss;

Welcoming the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

Urge Governments which have not done so, to ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

Reaffirming the significant role of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;

Commit ourselves in a decisive manner to the development of an effective international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing and support relevant capacity building efforts;

Commit our Governments to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its components into socio - economic development;

Commit our Governments to the establishment of networks of protected areas both marine and terrestrial and to the development of indicators and incentives to meet the 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss;

Urge our Governments to take an effective role in the review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment during 2004 and establish a mechanism for continuing scientific assessment input into the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Create and strengthen partnerships at all levels with public and private partners to promote protected areas, equitable sharing of benefits, capacity building, the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the provision of adequate new and additional financial resources;

Urge our Governments to support the development of national and regional centres of excellence to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to exchange experiences;

Urge our Governments to identify and remove barriers to the exchange of key technologies for the implementation of the Convention.